

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02383 181418Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----181452Z 062289 /44

O R 181321Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4067  
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2383  
EXDIS  
FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: LE SA  
SUBJ: FAHD VISIT TO U.S.; THE LEBANESE CONNECTION

1. AT GOL FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS' REQUEST, I CALLED ON HIM AT HIS HOME AT 1700 MAY 17. PURPOSE OF HIS REQUEST WAS TO ASK THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE RAISE WITH PRINCE FAHD DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON THE QUESTION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAIRO ACCORD IN LEBANON. BOUTROS SAID THAT PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS WERE AT AN IMPASSE; USG SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT SARKIS' INTERPRETATION WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL.

2. WHEN I ASKED BOUTROS IF THE PROBLEM CONCERNED THE NUMBER OF ARMED ELEMENTS TO BE PERMITTED IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS, HE DISMISSED THIS AS A FALSE ISSUE. THE REAL QUESTION, HE SAID, WAS ONE OF ATTITUDE. THE PLO WAS STILL REFUSING TO GIVE UP MANY OF ITS HEAVY ARMS AND WAS EVEN STRENGTHENING ITS FORTIFICATIONS IN THE CAMPS. IN ADDITION, THE PLO CONTINUED TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN LEBANESE INTERNAL POLITICS (SEE BEIRUT 2302). THE REAL ISSUE, BOUTROS SAID, WAS ONE OF SOVEREIGNTY. THE PLO MUST BE PERSUADED TO ACCEPT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE LEBANESE  
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GOVERNMENT UNDER PRESIDENT SARKIS IN LEBANON AND ONLY THE MEMBERS OF THE QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE HAD THE POWER TO DO THIS. OF THE FOUR COUNTRIES CONCERNED, SAUDI ARABIA PLAYED A KEY ROLE AND HAD GREAT INFLUENCE WITH THE PLO. HE WAS THEREFORE VERY ANXIOUS TO HAVE USG URGE FAHD TO GIVE PRESIDENT SARKIS HIS SUPPORT.

3. BOUTROS SUGGESTED THAT USG MIGHT TAKE LINE THAT STABILITY IN LEBANON IS IMPORTANT IN CREATING ATMOSPHERE WHICH COULD LEAD TO SUCCESSFUL GENEVA CONFERENCE. PLO'S CONTINUED REFUSAL TO IMPLEMENT CAIRO ACCORD AS INTERPRETED BY PRESIDENT SARKIS COULD DISTURB THIS STABILITY. IF PRESENT STAND-OFF CONTINUES, TENSIONS IN LEBANON WILL RISE. THIS COULD LEAD TO RENEWED FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND POSSIBLE TROUBLE WITH CERTAIN LEBANESE FACTIONS (READ KFUR FRONT) THAT ARE INCREASINGLY DISTURBED BY NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAIRO ACCORD. BOUTROS SAID THAT HE IS NOW TRYING TO ARRANGE A VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, OSTENSIBLY TO PAY A COURTESY CALL ON KING KHALED, BUT ACTUALLY TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF CAIRO ACCORD WITH PRINCE FAHD. REGARDLESS OF SUCCESS OF HIS VISIT, HE IS CONVINCED THAT SUPPORT FROM PRESIDENT CARTER OR SECRETARY VANCE WOULD CARRY GREAT WEIGHT WITH FAHD.

4. COMMENT: BOUTROS IS CLEARLY WORRIED THAT THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE QUADRIpartite COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE SARKIS INTERPRETATION OF THE CAIRO ACCORD THREATENS THE FRAGILE STABILITY IN LEBANON. SINCE THE DAYS IN EARLY FEBRUARY WHEN SAUDI ARABIAN AMB ALI AL-SHAER TALKED OF RAIDING THE REFUGEE CAMPS, THE PALESTINIAN POSITION IN LEBANON HAS STEADILY IMPROVED AND MANY CHRISTIANS, DOUBTING WHETHER THE QUADRIpartite COMMITTEE AND THE ASF HAVE EITHER THE WILL OR THE POWER TO CONTROL THEM, ARE SOUNDING INCREASINGLY DESPERATE. CONFIDENTIAL

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IF THE SAUDIS AND THE OTHER QUADRIpartite COMMITTEE MEMBERS COULD BE PERSUADED TO SUPPORT SARKIS' INTERPRETATION OF THE CAIRO ACCORD, IT WOULD DEFINITELY STRENGTHEN HIS POSITION IN LEBANON AND SPIKE CRITICISM FROM THE KFUR FRONT. EMBASSY THEREFORE RECOMMENDS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE RAISE THIS MATTER WITH PRINCE FAHD, AS BOUTROS REQUESTS. LANE

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER SS-O.

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NNN



## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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